

SECCS Fifth Edition

Happy New Year from the SECCS Project in California. We hope your 2005 brings you new beginnings and a fresh perspective on the world. In light of the horrific tragedy resulting from the tsunami, we are all reminded of the importance of valuing every moment we have together.

The SECCS staff traveled to Virginia in December 2004 for the National SECCS Conference. It was an excellent opportunity to learn from states that have been successfully developing their strategic plans for SECCS.

Here are just a *few* of the highlights that we heard from our colleagues:

Utah: One of several states that has created a Universal Application System. This is an electronic system that families can access 24 hours/day, 7 days/week to complete applications for 8 different programs (including Head Start, WIC, Medicaid and Children's Special Health Needs (CSHCN). Evaluation has demonstrated that 70% used computers at home or in the home of a friend.

Hawaii: Has completed Preschool Content Standards and has developed Community Guidelines for parents to maintain continuity of message. The guidelines share what families can do at home, and what neighborhoods and businesses can do.

Vermont: Is using WIC (Women Infants and Children Supplemental Nutrition Program) as a site to do developmental screening.

Illinois: Added case management to WIC which has resulted in a reduction in infant mortality.

Massachusetts: Six Boston physicians have started an enhanced practice for Children with Special Needs by adding Nurse Practitioners eight hours per week, parent consultation and Individual Health Plans. The results were a reduction in parents missing more than 20 days of work.

Alabama: Is co-locating pediatric offices in child care centers.

Kentucky: Has 28 Child Care Health Consultants serving 120 counties.

Michigan: Has had community conversations throughout the state regarding SECCS, by using the internet.

Excellent information was gathered and will be shared, in more detail, with the California Steering Committee which will meet for the first time in February, 2005.

THIS MONTH, THE FIFTH EXCITING PROJECT BEING HIGHLIGHTED, IN THE FIELD OF EARLY CHILDHOOD COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES, IS THE **CHILD CARE HEALTH LINKAGES PROJECT**

The goal of the Child Care Health Linkages Project is to improve the health and safety of children 0-5 years of age attending child care centers and family child care homes by providing health consultation services and creating linkages between health and child care agencies.

The Child Care Health Consultants and Advocates provide children (and their families) attending child care programs with:

- Health information on health and safety topics
- Screenings (vision, hearing, developmental)
- Health and safety workshops
- Referrals to outside agencies for health services, including insurance, behavioral concerns, infection illnesses and oral health
- On site visits to child care facilities
- Guidance and advice on improving the health and safety of the environment
- Support to monitor children's health and development
- Assistance with children with special needs
- Assistance to improve the overall quality of the child care facility
- Assistance to monitor immunizations, develop health and safety policies

Focus groups this month have been conducted with the Children's Roundtable, Kern County Network for Children Collaboratives and Parents Anonymous. If you have a group that would be interested in an overview of the SECCS Project or participation in a focus group, please contact me.

If you are **not** interested in receiving future updates from the SECCS project, please email me back and I will remove your name. On the other hand, if you are interested in adding additional folks you think would benefit from the updates, please let me know and I will add their names. Your comments and suggestions are appreciated. Please feel free to correspond with me by email wewayne@kern.org or telephone 916 552-8742 or 661 204-8840. Visit the SECCS website at: <http://www.mch.dhs.ca.gov/programs/seccsfacts.htm>